

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the claims are intended to place the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been canceled, and Claims 2 and 12 have been amended. In view of these amendments and the following reasoning for allowance, the applicant hereby respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the subject application.


Claims 1, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajiwara et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,960,116. In addition, Claims 2-9 and 12-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated that these last claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While no admission is made that the rejected claims are actually anticipated by the cited reference, the applicant has chosen to amend the claims as suggested in the Office Action to further the prosecution of the application and expedite its allowance. More particularly, rejected Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been cancelled and Claims 2-9 and 12-20 have been rewritten.

In summary, the allowance of Claims 21-34 is gratefully acknowledged. Additionally, it is believed that the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance. As such, withdrawal of the objection to Claims 2-9 and 12-20 is respectfully requested, and allowance of these claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

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Respectfully submitted


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